

APPROVED
Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC)
General Public Board Meeting
Tuesday, 12 January 2016 – 6.30PM
Calahan Elementary School Auditorium
18722 Knapp Street, Northridge 91324

1. Call to Order

- As we did not yet have a quorum, Tom asked Kevin Mottus to do his presentation at 6:35PM.
- At 7PM, NWNC had a quorum and Tom called the meeting to order.

2. Roll call

- A roll call was performed; seven members of the board, along with over twenty-five stakeholders were in attendance; a quorum was declared.

Here (7)	Tom Johnson, Steven Koch, Peter Lasky, John Mah, Debbie Penman, Colleen Pick, and Glen Wilson
Absent (2)	Pamela Gentry and Freddie Rymond
Resigned (1)	David Uranga

3. Flag Ceremony

- President Tom Johnson led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Reports/Presentations by Public Officials

- CD 12 Mitch Englander representative Jonathan Coto reported that the council has returned from their break.
- Councilman Englander has been doing everything possible to help people affected by the Aliso Canyon Gas Leak. He recently introduced a motion requesting support from the state for more technology to determine leaks and create emergency plans.
- Wednesday night, January 27, will be the annual Los Angeles Homeless County census; if interested in volunteering for this event, please reach out to Jonathan Coto at 818-882-1212.
- Councilman Englander’s office is working to recreate “Citrus Sunday”; at these event(s) (dates TBD) excessive backyard fruit is picked, collected, and distributed to food banks.

- Molly Taylor serves as an Independent Election Administrator (IEA) for regions 2 and 7. She has a great deal of information available (suggested banners, sample flyers, etc.) to neighborhood councils via her online toolbox at her Google drive. In addition, <http://www.empowerla.org/elections> has a great deal of online information.
- NWNC is considering advertising and sponsorship to support their election; Molly feels this is a great idea.
- Key upcoming dates:

Candidate Filing	Tuesday, February 9
Online Voting Begins	Saturday, March 19
Election Day	Saturday April 9

- Any concerns, please reach out to Molly directly at her email molly@empowerla.org, via twitter at [gpmollytaylor](#), or call her at 310-920-0965.

5. General Public Comments on Non-Agenda items

- Evelyn Brown has lived in Northridge for 50-years, and she does not like what has become of Reseda Boulevard. The poles are a useless inconvenience. In addition, at the nearby park, people are letting their dogs off-leash; these loose dogs have attacked her friends.

- Realtor Mr. William Kuzmin mentioned that attached garages are now considered part of the square footage of a house. If the garage is a separate structure, then it does not count as part of the residential square footage.
 - Realtor Myrna Lightstone is concerned about the bicycle lanes on Wilbur Avenue and Rinaldi Street. There should be restricted hours or signs because sometimes it takes 10-15 minutes to get through the traffic light. In addition, due to traffic congestion, parking should be restricted on Rinaldi Street between 4 to 7PM. Many people stated that the gas leak started in October; it actually started five months ago in August.
 - Mickie Loi reported that “Coffee with the Captain” would be held Thursday morning, January 21, at the Starbucks at the Northridge Mall. Later that day, at 7PM, will be the Basic Car Meeting with Senior Lead Officer (SLO) John Parker at the Garden Christian Fellowship at 20745 Nordhoff Street, just east of DeSoto.
 - In addition, the 9th Annual Valley Preparedness Fair will be Saturday, October 1, from 10AM to 2PM. Additional information will follow concerning this very worthwhile event.
 - Budget Advocate Glenn Bailey, President of the Northridge East Neighborhood Council (NENC) mentioned that the December 7 deadline has been extended until Friday, January 15, and the Budget Advocates survey remains active at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/servicereportcard2015>. They have already received over 1,400 responses; this survey may help get city hall’s attention.
 - Plummer Street does not go through the University, between Zelzah and Darby; representatives of the city will be at the Northridge Women’s Club, at 18401 Lassen Street, next Wednesday, January 20 to discuss a possible easement.
 - The owners of the Northridge Post Office structure are reviewing a landscape plan; they will also do a traffic study of that area.
 - Glenn reported that Lydia Grant of the Board of Neighborhood Councils (BONC) stated that Neighborhood council committee meeting minutes are no longer required, and the Neighborhood Council Commission is looking at possibly changing the definition of “stakeholder”
6. Special Guest Speaker Kevin Mottus speaking on the public health concerns about the proposed installation of 20,000 Wi-Fi transmitters in Los Angeles
- Mr. Mottus of the California Brain Tumor Association is concerned about the citywide Wi-Fi plan. He feels the city is doing nothing to study the health effects of these Wi-Fi transmitters.
 - People have gotten very sick from their wireless smart-meter. Pulse radiation frequency from the WIFI causes nausea, vertigo, sleeplessness, fertility, behavioral problems, neurologic issues, etc. Long term, there could be a risk of cancer.
 - Young women are more sensitive to the bad health effects because they have more fluid in their bodies.
 - Some people, including LeBron James and Beau Biden, have gotten tumors near their ears. In addition, there is a chance that Steve Jobs’s pancreatic cancer may have been caused by always carrying a cellular telephone.
 - The USA has done nothing to restrict Wi-Fi, whereas France and Israel ban Wi-Fi from elementary schools.
 - The wireless industry has spent billions to convince people that Wi-Fi is not dangerous.
 - A key concern from the US government has been thermal effects of 2.4g electronic waves hitting the body every second.
 - Wired internet connections are safer and more secure. In December 2015, the California Medical Association passed a resolution, advocating for wired power, rather than Wi-Fi.

- He is very concerned that residents within 500’ of the Wi-Fi transmitters are not being informed and are not given an opportunity to prepare themselves. People who reside within 500’ of proposed cellular towers are given alerts.
- Mr. Mottus showed a petition where he has collected 900-signatures of people who do not want the Wi-Fi transmitters near their homes.
- Among the supporters of Wi-Fi are groups that are pro-technology, including the Gates Foundation.
- Stakeholder Evelyn Brown mentioned that her husband is easily tired, and perhaps this was caused by the technology around them.
- Stakeholder Emma Rolla had Wi-Fi in her home; since removing the Wi-Fi, Emma and her children feel much better.
- A stakeholder mentioned that there was an economic reason for the free Wi-Fi, which will be a great advantage for people who do not have land-based telephone lines or cable television. Mr. Mottus replied that the city-provided Wi-Fi would be very slow, similar to the Wi-Fi at airports. The city will use this slow service as an up-sell to get people to pay more for increased speed.
- Mr. Mottus requested that this resolution come before NWNC and that they vote on it tonight. Tom Johnson reminded him that they could not vote on it tonight. John Mah offered that this would be a violation of the Brown Act. Mr. Mottus replied that as this is a health issue, it should over-rule the Brown Act.

7. Discussion and Motion to Approve December 2015 minutes

- Tom Johnson made a motion to approve the December minutes; Debbie Penman seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

8. President Tom Johnson’s Comments

- Due to his other commitments, board member David Uranga has resigned.

9. Discussion and motion to approve a \$135 expenditure for upgrading the NWNC boundary map on election postcard/flyer

- Peter Lasky wondered why we were invoiced for this charge; this cost should have been included as part of the original cost of the postcard.
- Colleen Pick mentioned that the map and flyer look terrific, and recommended that we pay the bill and put this issue behind us.
- Stakeholder Myrna Lightstone protested this discussion for a \$135 expense.
- Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this \$135 expenditure; Debbie Penman seconded this motion and it passed:

Yes (6)	Tom Johnson, Steven Koch, John Mah, Debbie Penman, Colleen Pick, and Glen Wilson
No (1)	Peter Lasky
Absent (2)	Pamela Gentry and Freddie Rymond

10. Motion to approve the President’s appointment of Brent Robinson to the vacant Renter’s seat on the NWNC board

- Tom Johnson made a motion to approve Brent Robinson to sit on the NWNC board; John Mah seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.
- On behalf of the city of Los Angeles, Jonathan Coto administered the oath of office to Brent Robinson.

11. Motion to approve the President’s appointment of Hayk Gasparyan to the vacant At-Large seat (#3) on the NWNC board

- Tom Johnson made a motion to approve Hayk Gasparyan to sit on the NWNC board; Steven Koch seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

- On behalf of the city of Los Angeles, Jonathan Coto administered the oath of office to Hayk Gasparyan.

12. Discussion and Motion to Approve the 2015, December Monthly Expense Report (MER)

Date	Item	Category	Vendor	Amount
Dec 3	Poinsettias, Candles, Tongs, Napkins, Plates, Water, etc. for Holiday Mixer	Election	Smart & Final	\$ 149.89
Dec 7	Labels	Operations	Office Depot	20.70
Dec 8	Minute Taker	Operations	Apple One	115.50
Dec 8	Minute Taker	Operations	Apple One	92.40
Dec 9	Ice for Holiday Mixer	Election	Smart & Final	8.70
Dec 9	Coffee for Holiday Mixer	Election	Starbucks	29.90
Dec 9	Food for Holiday Mixer	Outreach	Maria's Italian Kitchen	525.26
Dec 9	December Rent	Operations	Decision Publications	150.00
Dec 9	December Advertising	Outreach	Decision Publications	315.00
Dec 9	Website Maintenance	Outreach	Moore Business Results	368.48
Dec 10	Postage for MER Report	Operations	USPS	5.75
Dec 18	Pizza and Salad for OBE Meeting	Outreach	Maria's Italian Kitchen	87.98
Dec 23	Reseda Boulevard Maintenance	CIP	American Heritage Landscape	200.00
Dec 29	NWNC 2 nd Postcard Mailing	Election	C&M Printing	3,000.00
Dec 30	Postage for MER Report	Operations	USPS	5.75
			TOTAL	<u>\$5,075.31</u>

- Following a brief review of these charges, Tom Johnson made a motion to approve the December MER; Colleen Pick seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

13. Discussion and motion to approve reallocating \$3,500 from category 100 funds (Operations) of the 2015-2016 budget to category 300 (Community Improvement) funds of the 2015-2016 budget

- Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this reallocation of funds; Steven Koch seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

14. Discussion and motion to approve ~~increasing~~ the Beautification Budget by \$1,000. Funds are to be used for mulches, composts, sand, etc., in an effort to save dying trees along the Tampa Avenue medians

- These center medians along Tampa Avenue no longer have any water, and two or three of the trees have died.
- This effort will serve as a pilot program to help save the remaining trees by creating 18x4" holes (with sleeves) around the trees, these holes will be wrapped with cloth, with sand around the sleeves. The water, along with nitrogen, will seep through the ground to help the trees survive.
- Stakeholder William Kuzmin mentioned that this should be called out as "Vertical Mulching".
- Stakeholder Evelyn Brown issued a concern about bark beetle.
- A stakeholder asked where this beautification money would come from; the reply was Category 300, Community Improvement
- Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this budget action, and remove the word "increasing"; Peter Lasky seconded this motion and it passed.

Yes (7)	Tom Johnson, Steven Koch, Peter Lasky, John Mah, Debbie Penman, Colleen Pick, and Glen Wilson
Not Yet Eligible (2)	Hayk Gasparyan and Brent Robinson
Absent (2)	Pamela Gentry and Freddie Rymond

15. Discussion and motion to approve a funding line of \$5,000 for retaining architectural, engineering,

landscaping, and/or surveyor services necessary for preparation of documents necessary to secure building permits from the L.A. Bureau of Engineering for placement of sculptures along Tampa Avenue as part of a Public Arts ~~Walk~~ Display

- Stakeholder Ryan wondered if this had first been discussed with the various agencies of the City of Los Angeles; Peter Lasky explained that the City Department of Cultural Affairs must approve this.
- Marcie offered to volunteer for any committee to further discuss this issue, and suggested removing the words “arts walk”; alternatively, it was decided to go with “arts display”.
- Steven Koch asked about concrete pads – Peter Lasky replied that we have not yet gotten to that point.
- Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this funding action; Colleen Pick seconded this motion and it passed

Yes (7)	Tom Johnson, Steven Koch, Peter Lasky, John Mah, Debbie Penman, Colleen Pick, and Glen Wilson
Not Yet Eligible (2)	Hayk Gasparyan and Brent Robinson
Absent (2)	Pamela Gentry and Freddie Rymond

16. Discussion and motion for a funding line of up to \$1,000 as recommended by the Election Committee for a flyer to be inserted in the local “Community Connection” newspaper. The flyer will be printed on the front and back for the purposes of promoting of a candidates forum for the April 9, 2016 neighborhood council election and informing stakeholders of the role, goals and accomplishments of the NWNC

- As this will run at the end of February, there will be sufficient time to include the names of the NWNC candidates who will have filed by the February 9 deadline.
- Glenn Bailey expressed concern about this mailer going exclusively to NWNC. If the newspaper people cannot split it, perhaps NWNC and the NENC should combine their election flyer.
- Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this funding action; Colleen Pick seconded this motion and it passed

Yes (7)	Tom Johnson, Steven Koch, Peter Lasky, John Mah, Debbie Penman, Colleen Pick, and Glen Wilson
Not Yet Eligible (2)	Hayk Gasparyan and Brent Robinson
Absent (2)	Pamela Gentry and Freddie Rymond

17. Discussion and motion to approve reimbursement of \$29.58 to VP of Administration Peter Lasky for out-of-pocket expenses for enlarging photos of the purposed Public Arts Walk along the Tampa Medians. The photos are to be used at meetings and for promoting the Tampa Median Public Art ~~Walk~~ Display Project

- Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this funding action and replace the word “walk” with “display”; Debbie Penman seconded this motion and it passed

Yes (7)	Tom Johnson, Steven Koch, Peter Lasky, John Mah, Debbie Penman, Colleen Pick, and Glen Wilson
Not Yet Eligible (2)	Hayk Gasparyan and Brent Robinson
Absent (2)	Pamela Gentry and Freddie Rymond

18. Discussion and Motion to approve a funding line of up to \$50 for a 3’ x 7’ Northridge West NC Banner. The banner would be of the same design as the NWNC bus bench on Reseda Blvd

- Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this funding action; no one seconded this motion and it died without a vote.

19. Discussion and motion to approve a change in the NWNC General Meeting format. Change includes 6PM start time for “meet and greet” with select foods and salads. At 6:15 PM the meeting would commence and our guest speaker would be allowed up to 30 minutes to speak. Agenda items of

importance would follow and finishing with housekeeping items. There would be a 3-month trial to determine if board members and stakeholders are satisfied with the new format

- This will improve the efficiency of the meetings by making them go faster. The “meaty” matters will go first, than housekeeping actions (treasurer’s reports, minutes, etc.) can be discussed later in the meeting.
- Peter Lasky mentioned that December has always had the best meetings, with the best food and the best turn-out.
- Stakeholder Evelyn Brown asked how an issue could be brought onto the agenda, such as the issue with signage in the park for dogs off their leashes. She was requested to bring it before the executive leadership committee.
- Tom Johnson made a motion to approve this meeting change; Steven Koch seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

20. Presentation by Nieves & Associates on the purposed sale of a full line of alcoholic beverages at a new market to open at the Northridge Fashion Center mall at 9301 Tampa Avenue #134, with a motion to allow the sale of such beverages

- This proposed upscale gourmet market will occupy 1,292 square feet and sell craft beer and gourmet wine. No open beverages nor tastings will be permitted.
- The owner, Mr. Singh, currently has over five markets in the community, which has led to contributing thousands of dollars to the community’s schools via their lottery sales.
- Jonathan Coto mentioned that these business owners are very community oriented, including the donation of water to multiple civic events.
- Debbie Penman expressed concern about what would the market do to prevent underage or inappropriate consumption of alcohol, the response was that there will be an onsite ID scanning system to verify eligibility, and the property currently has a strong surveillance security system to prevent people from opening their newly purchased beverage.
- Principal Michelle Wells asked if they had reached out to the theatre to prevent people from purchasing alcohol and carrying it into the theatre. The theatre has a great deal of security, as well as signage, advising people not to carry outside alcoholic beverages into the theatre.
- A few stakeholders expressed concern that this issue did not first come before the Land Use Committee; however, this committee lacks a chairman and seems to have disbanded.
- Tom Johnson made a motion to not oppose the proposed sale of alcoholic beverages at a new market at the Northridge Fashion Center; Debbie Penman seconded this motion and it passed

No Opposition (5)	Tom Johnson, Steven Koch, Debbie Penman, Colleen Pick, and Glen Wilson
Abstain (2)	Peter Lasky and John Mah
Not Yet Eligible (2)	Hayk Gasparyan and Brent Robinson
Absent (2)	Pamela Gentry and Freddie Rymond

21. Adjournment

- At 8:49PM, Tom Johnson made a motion to adjourn; Debbie Penman seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED DURING THE MEETING OF TUESDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2016.